

VA GROUND WATER PROTECTION STEERING COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be held on
Tuesday, November 18, 2003 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
first floor conference room, DEQ, 629 East Main Street, Richmond VA
For more information contact Mary Ann Massie at 804-698-4042 or
email mamassie@deq.state.va.us

Meeting Summary: Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Steering Committee members in attendance:

Terry Wagner and Mary Ann Massie, Department of Environmental Quality

Jody Aston, Department of Conservation and Recreation

Chris Adkins, Virginia Department of Health

Others:

Tanya Denckla, Institute for Environmental Negotiation, UVA

Agencies not in attendance:

Virginia Cooperative Extension, Department of Mines Minerals and Energy, US Geological Survey, Department of Business Assistance, Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of General Services/Division of Consolidated Laboratories, Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Department, and the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

AGENCY UPDATES:

Department of Environmental Quality

Terry Wagner reported water supply planning continues as the priority for the Office of Water Resources Management. The Water Policy Technical Advisory Committee is preparing draft regulatory language for DEQ's consideration. The TAC will meet at least three more times before the December 1 deadline for regulatory language (established in HB 1221). Additionally comments have been solicited on the draft drought assessment and response plan. The request for comments was routed through VA Manufacturers Assoc., VA Conservation Network, and the VA Municipal League. The development of the drought assessment and response plan is not a "regulatory" effort. No significant comments were received. Tanya Denckla asked a question about the boundaries of planning units in the drought assessment and response plan. Discussion followed exploring watersheds, water basins, and boundaries based on local or regional governments. The draft drought assessment and response plan was released in May 2003; a link is available on the DEQ web page.

Terry Wagner also reported DEQ has reorganized with a new Division created, the Division of Water Resources. (This brings DEQ divisions to seven - Water Resources, Water (permit coordination), Waste, Air, Enforcement, Policy, and

Enforcement.) The activities of the surface water investigation unit in Charlottesville, the Office of Water Resources Management (surface and ground water quantity), water use data, and VA Water Protection Permits will be incorporated in the new Division of Water Resources. Additional resources will be necessary to ensure the success of the new Division. Regional directors are considering water supply needs as they consider new positions. A new position in PRO dealing with Virginia Water Use Data and surface water regulations is an example.

Mary Ann Massie reported the Ground Water Festival on schedule for September 25. Ground water protection issues will be introduced to Powhatan County sixth graders on the Cub Scout side of the Robert E. Lee Council's Camp Brady Saunders in Goochland, surface water issues will be introduced to Powhatan County sixth graders on the Boy Scout side of the camp.

Howard Freeland, DEQ Waste Division, provided the following update in absentia:

There has been ongoing compliance problem with the Page County Battle Creek Landfill concerning the amount of waste that the facility can accept daily. The landfill is permitted to receive 250 tons per day and the landfill has been accepting an average of 1500 tons per day with a high of 6500 tons on one day. The County holds the permit but has contracted with a company to operate the landfill. There has been discussion about the possibility to amend the permit for additional daily waste disposal; however, at this point, the DEQ has decided to have a hearing to determine the appropriate limit. The hearing should be held around the last week in October. There has not been any indication of groundwater contamination at the facility.

Department of Health

Chris Adkins reported the EPA Source Water Assessment Program Award was given to Shenandoah County. George Sylvester was recognized for his activities with their water resources committee. Chris further reported Olver Inc., their contractor working with localities to move from the assessment stage into protection activities, is making progress in Loudoun and Shenandoah counties. Chris reminded members that Bob Taylor is retiring and provided notice the Health Dept. will be moving to the newly renovated Madison Building by year's end.

Department of Conservation and Recreation

Jody Aston reported an interest by DCR's Russ Perkinson in having the GWPSC provide a forum for continued discussions on land application of biosolids and possible impacts to ground water resources. Mary Ann Massie agreed to explore this as a topic for a meeting in the coming year. Jody also presented a note and publication from DCR's Jeff Hancock on storm water management, underground injection control, and impacts to ground water. The Committee has examined this topic in the past with little success. It was agreed that Mary Ann would try

to get this on the Committee's 2004 agenda as well. Jody forwarded a note from DCR's Anna Jordan regarding ground water education efforts at Smith Mountain Lake Park. Over 90 programs were presented, exposing 1700 schoolchildren, to the concept of ground water protection. Mary Ann will follow up with Ms. Jordan.

Jody provided a final project report on the "Impact of Onsite Wastewater Systems on Water Quality of the Coastal Regions" from scientist at VA Tech, working in cooperation with the VA Dept of Health and DCR. The report is available on DCR's web page <http://www.dcr.state.va.us/sw/czprojx.htm#2001e>

US Geological Survey

Randy McFarland, USGS, provided the following update in absentia:

1. USGS will be holding a 3-day workshop in Reston during Sept. 22-24, for planning the drilling of a multi-thousand-foot deep core hole at the center of the Chesapeake Bay impact crater near Cape Charles during 2004. This "ground-zero" hole follows several earlier core holes drilled along the western rim of the crater during 2000-03, and is expected to reveal some of the most fundamental information for understanding many aspects of the impact event. Important data relating to the origin and history of salty ground water trapped within the crater also will be obtained. The workshop will have over 60 attendees, including an international cast from among the most renown impact-crater researchers. The first day will be devoted to information exchange by way of oral presentations and a large poster session, which for the ground-water aspects will include 4 posters covering the hydrogeologic framework, ground-water salinity, regional flow modeling, and hydrothermal processes.
2. Construction of GIS data sets representing the hydrogeologic framework of the Virginia Coastal Plain has been completed and incorporated into a revised ground-water flow model. Ground-water withdrawal data continue to be compiled with which the model will undergo calibration.
3. Ground-water age-date sampling has begun on the Virginia Eastern Shore. These data will be used to support calibration of a revised Eastern Shore ground-water flow model.

Department of Housing and Community Development

Wyatt Little provided the following update in absentia:

(July 2003) Through DHCD's Self-Help Virginia Program, the town of Derby, Virginia will ultimately have installed 12,000 feet of water line and connected 250 people (99 households) with public water. The water system Derby currently uses was built over 80 years ago and is antiquated and unreliable. Self-help will also fund half of the new sewer system in Derby. The Self-Help Virginia Program relies on volunteer labor to install public water systems in small, rural communities. Since the program's inception in 1998, Self-Help has funded \$4.6 million to complete 22 projects and connect over 1,900 people in ten counties

with safe and reliable public water systems. Self-help approach has saved over \$8.2 million overall using the volunteer-driven approach instead of conventional construction methods.

(September 2003) Completed draft of Consolidated Plan Annual Performance Evaluation Report, which describes DHCD's administration of funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, including the Community Development Block Grant Program, which funds a variety of water projects. Comments on the Report will be received by DHCD through September 24, 2003.

Distribution of Annual Report

Chris Adkins and Jody Aston offered to distribute reports to field offices and parks. Mary Ann to provide additional copies to all members. Mary Ann will request a notice be placed in the "County Connections" newsletter as well.

Presentation Topics/Agenda Items for 2004

The following topics were noted as being of interest for future meetings:

Biosolids - Cal Sawyer, VDH, and Russ Perkinson, DCR and possibly a representative from the Water Environment Foundation who have recently funded research in this area.

Brownfields

Ground Water Festival 2003

Stormwater management and ground water impacts

VDH and Source Water Assessment data layers - intranet activities

Drought Assessment and Response Plan

Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee's proposed regulation

Security Assessments at public water supplies - what's being done with the information, next steps

**THE NEXT MEETING IS SET FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18
9 A.M. DEQ FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM. PLEASE MARK YOUR
CALENDAR TO ATTEND.**